

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03836 300953Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 300827Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9825

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3836

NODIS

FOR DAY AND BROWN; PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 104056

1. WILL APPROACH JUMBLATT OR HIS DEPUTY AS REQUESTED IF INSTRUCTIONS CONFIRMED. HOWEVER, BELIEVE MY EFFORTS WOULD BE MORE SUCCESSFUL IF I WERE GIVEN SOME FLEXIBILITY TO REFLECT WHAT APPEARS TO BE GROWING CONSENSUS (PHALANGE EXCEPTED) FOR SLIGHT REPEAT SLIGHT DELAY. (TOO RIGID A STAND MIGHT AROUSE SUSPICION OF OUR BEING PART OF A SYRIAN PLAN TO STREAMROLLER ELECTIONS.)

2. FACT IS THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE GENUINE INTEREST IN PARLIAMENT FOR BRIEF DELAY AND SPEAKER ASSAD HAS ALREADY INTIMATED HE MIGHT CHANGE PRESENT PLANS.

3. PHALANGE, FOR THEIR PART, ARE RARING TO GO. PHALANGE POLITBUREAU MEMBER RETURNED MY PHONE CALL AT 2 A.(.. TODAY. CLAIMED SECURITY SITUATION WAS FINE AND THAT ELECTIONS SHOULD BE HELD ON SCHEDULE. WAS NO DOUBT AWARE AT THAT TIME OF THE ARRIVAL OF ADDITIONAL PLA TROOPS IN BEIRUT. SAID HE WOULD CONTACT ME THIS EVENING FOR A PERSONAL MEETING. HE VOLUNTEERED, INCIDENTALLY, THAT AMBASSADOR BROWN SHOULD NOT RETURN TO BEIRUT

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UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS, WHICH OF COURSE HE ENVISAGES

FOR MAY 1.

4. I AM MEETING WITH PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTY CLOSE TO ASSAD AT 5 O'CLOCK THIS AFTERNOON. HE WILL GIVE ME A FULL BREAKDOWN ON LATEST PARLIAMENTARY PLAY. JUMBLATT HAS MEANWHILE PRETTY CLEARLY INDICATED PUBLICLY THAT CONTINUANCE OF THE CEASEFIRE BEYOND ORIGINALLY AGREED-ON DATE OF APRIL 30 WOULD BE TIED INTO PUTTING OFF THE ELECTIONS UNTIL NEXT WEEK.

5. AS FAR AS DELAYING TACTICS ON THE PART OF CHAMOUN ARE CONCERNED, I BELIEVE IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT THE PHALANGE WILL HANDLE THIS SITUATION ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

6. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM JUMBLATT'S DEPUTY KHALAF AND HIS ADVISER ABU-DIAB REQUESTING A ONE O'CLOCK GET-TOGETHER, WHICH I HAVE ACCEPTED.
WARING

SECRET

NNN

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